

INTERESTING RELIC.

One of the last reminders of the timber days at Truckee, California, was uncovered a few days ago when workmen demolishing one of the old Truckee Lumber Company's sawmills uncovered a bell used by the vigilantes. It was used to summon the vigilantes when the leaders felt the necessity of taking the law in their own hands and exercising the prerogatives of Judge Lynch. Truckee is among the oldest towns of the state and just as it was prominent in the historic days when the Sierras' slopes gave up their gold, so it is prominent now as a summer and winter resort city. Its fishing and hunting and nearness to Lake Tahoe make it the mecca of sportsmen and pleasure-seekers during the summer months and its winter carnival, which begins about Christmas time, attracts thousands during the snow period. Preparations are already under way for the season of winter sports this year. There will be skiing, tobogganing, the ice carnival and the sleigh-rides to historic Lake Donner again this year, and the interest created by the city rinks in skating is expected to add greatly to the number of Truckee visitors.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(Devoted to the advancement of Pharmacy and its allied branches; to the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and to matters of interest bearing upon the therapeutic agents offered to the medical profession. The editor will gladly supply available information on matters coming within the scope of this Department.)

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1916, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

Barium Sulphate for Roentgen Ray Work.—Barium sulphate freed from soluble barium salts. This salt passes through the system unchanged and, because of this, is used in taking Roentgen Ray pictures of the stomach and the intestines.

Barium Sulphate-Squibb for Roentgen Ray Work.—A brand complying with the standards for barium sulphate for Roentgen Ray work, N. N. R. E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York (Jour. A. M. A., October 7, 1916, p. 1091).

Chlorazene Tablets, 4.6 Gr.—Each tablet contains 4.6 grains chlorazene (sodium paratoluene-sulphochloramine). The Abbott Laboratories, Chicago (Jour. A. M. A., October 21, 1916, p. 1229).

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Hydras.—The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry reports that Hydras, sold by John Wyeth & Brother, is one of the so-called "uterine tonics," said to contain "cramp bark, helonias root, hydrastis, scutellaria, dogwood and aromatics" in unspecified amounts. While the name, taken in connection with the composition, suggests that hydrastis is an important constituent, the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory found this drug to be present in unimportant amounts. The Council finds Hydras inadmissible to New and Nonofficial Remedies because its composition is semi-secret; because the recommendations on the label for its use in specified diseases, and the advertising accompanying the bottle are sure to

lead to its ill-advised use by the public; because the claims made for its curative properties are exaggerated and unwarranted; because the name is misleading and because the combination of these five drugs, even if individually they were of therapeutic value, is irrational (Jour. A. M. A., October 7, 1916, p. 1107).

Nuxated Iron.—Nuxated Iron is advertised in newspapers with the claim that it is not a patent medicine or secret remedy. In the popular meaning of the word, "Nuxated Iron" is just as much a "patent medicine" as is "Peruna," "Lydia Pinkham's" or "Pierce's Favorite Prescription." Also, "Nuxated Iron" is essentially secret in composition. While the public is led to believe that the preparation consists chiefly of nux vomica and iron, analyses made in the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory and elsewhere indicate that it contains much less than an ordinary dose of iron and practically no nux vomica. It is sold under claims that are both directly and inferentially false and misleading not only as regards its composition but also as regards its alleged therapeutic effects. Nuxated Iron is also advertised in the Medical Brief, a publication which has for its editor the "medical expert" for the Wine of Cardui concern in the recent case against the American Medical Association and as its publisher one who, through the "National Druggist," has long been the mouthpiece of the "patent medicine" interests (Jour. A. M. A., October 21, 1916, p. 1244).

Patent Medicines Prosecuted Under the Food and Drugs Act.—The following information was brought out in connection with prosecutions by the federal authorities under that portion of the Food and Drugs Act which provides penalties against misleading, false and unwarranted therapeutic claims: Radway's Ready Relief was claimed to relieve rheumatism, sore throat, pleurisy, pneumonia and other conditions. The government chemists found the preparation to be a hydro-alcoholic solution of oleoresin of capsicum, camphor and ammonia. Ingham's Vegetable Expecto-rant Nervine Pain Extractor was found to contain alcohol 86 per cent., opium alkaloids, camphor, capsicum and vegetable extractive matter. It was claimed that this morphine mixture was not only safe and harmless, but positively beneficial when given to teething children. Tetterine was said to be a marvelous remedy for tetter, eczema, etc. Maignen Antiseptic Powder according to the government chemists is composed essentially of calcium carbonate, borax, aluminum sulphate and sodium carbonate. Among other things the exploiters of this powder, which at one time was advertised to the medical profession, tried to persuade the public that the preparation would "sterilize" the stomach, throat, nose, lungs, etc. Green Mountain Oil or Magic Pain Destroyer was found to consist essentially of 95 per cent. linseed oil, with oil of sassafras, oil of thuja, and oil of turpentine, with possibly small amounts of camphor. According to the claims made on the trade package, this stuff was said to be "A Remedy for Diphtheria, Croup, Deafness and Sore Eyes, Rheumatic Pains, Stiff Joints, Pains in the Back" and many other ailments. Mrs. Joe Person's Remedy was found to be a slightly sweetened water-alcohol solution of vegetable drugs with a minute trace of alkaloids and the presence of podophyllin and sarsaparilla indicated. The preparation was claimed to cure such things as "blood poison," eczema, malaria and pellagra. Tutt's Pills were found to consist mainly of sugar, aloes, starch and calomel. The nostrum was sold under claims to the effect that it was "a remedy for intermittent and remittent fevers, dropsy, dysentery, diseases of the kidneys and bladder," and a number of other conditions (Jour. A. M. A., October 28, 1916, p. 1316-1317).